

REMARKS

The Board of Appeals has reversed the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-7, 10-18, 20-23 and 26-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makita (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0007120), in view of Flint (U.S. Patent No. 6,735,700). Further, the Board of Appeals has reversed the Examiner's rejection of Claims 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makita, in view of Flint, and further in view of Browne (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,533). Additionally, the Board of Appeals has reversed the Examiner's rejection of Claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter.

In addition, the Board of Appeals has maintained the Examiner's rejection of Claims 17, 18, 20-23, 26-32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully asserts that such rejection has been avoided in view of the amendments made hereinabove to independent Claims 17 and 34, as suggested by the Board of Appeals in the last sentence on Page 13 of the Decision on Appeal.

Thus, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The

Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NA11P020).

Respectfully submitted,
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